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Amendments to the Claims:

1-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with compression of the embedded data, the embedded data initially comprising a non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein, and wherein combined data comprises the non-compressed form including the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

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- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the combined data;
  - (b) compressing the combined data; and
  - (c) embedding the auxiliary information in the compressed combined data,

whereby the compressed combined data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

26. (currently amended): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, and wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form of the data;
- (b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;

and

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(c) steganographically embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form whereby the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

27-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the compression comprises encoding.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the decompressing comprises decoding.

33. (previously presented): A method comprising:  
retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a non-compressed form;  
compressing the data signal; and

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embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed data signal,  
wherein the compressed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the non-compressed data signal.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is embedded in the compressed data signal in the form of a steganographic watermark.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 33 wherein the data signal includes the auxiliary information embedded therein during said compressing step.

37. (previously presented): A method comprising:  
retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a compressed form;  
decompressing the compressed data signal to yield a de-compressed data signal;  
and  
embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the de-compressed data signal,  
wherein the decompressed data signal comprises digital data, whereby the de-compressed

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data signal comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in the de-compressed data signal.

39. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is encoded in the de-compressed data signal in the form of a steganographic watermark.

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40. (previously presented): A method comprising:  
retrieving auxiliary information from an original data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal;

performing a transformation on the original data signal to create a transformed data signal; and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal,  
wherein the transformed data comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

41. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 41 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in the transformed data signal.

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43. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in the transformed data signal.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the transformation causes the auxiliary information not to be detectable from the transformed data signal.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

46. (previously presented): The method of claim 45 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in the transformed data signal.

47. (previously presented): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in the transformed data signal.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the embedding of the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal uses a robust embedding method for the transformed data signal that enables detection of the auxiliary information by a detector.

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49. (previously presented): The method of claim 48 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically encoded in the transformed data signal.

50. (previously presented): The method of claim 49 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

51. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data in which the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

(a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form;

(b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;

and

(b) embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form, wherein the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein, and wherein the non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein comprises digital data.